

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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FOL RPT PARIS 22145 ACTION SECSTATE 30 JUL QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: MARISAT AND INDIAN OCEAN

REF: STATE 179484

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTTEL, EMBOFF MET ON JULY 30 WITH ROY GIBSON, DIRECTOR GENERAL, ESA, TO OBTAIN HIS REACTION TO JOHNSON VISIT OF JULY 29.
2. GIBSON ADVISED MEETING WAS LOW KEY AND PRESENT NO PROBLEMS TO ESA. THIRD MARISAT IN INDIAN OCEAN WILL NOT INFLUENCE POSITIONING OR EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM NOW PLANNED FOR MAROTS. SINCE COMSAT GENERAL AND ESA ARE AWARE OF SPECIFICATIONS OF EACH OTHERS' SPACECRAFT, HE ASSUMES ANY POTENTIAL INTERFERENCE PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION BY COMSAT GENERAL.
3. IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT RESULTS OF ESA/COMSAT GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST EIGHTEEN MONTHS HAVE BEEN DESULTORY, PRIMARILY BECAUSE EUROPE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO

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DECIDE WHAT THEY WANT OR HOW TO GO ABOUT IT. GIBSON

TOLD JOHNSON OF RECENT PROGRESS MADE IN THIS AREA AT THE
JULY 27 ESA JOINT COMMUNICATION PROGRAM BOARD MEETING.
THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MEET WITH PER-
SONNEL OF MEMBER STATES (INCLUDING PTT'S) TO DISCUSS
PLANS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE MAROTS PROGRAM PAST THE
FIRST LAUNCH NOW SCHEDULED FOR MID-1978. GIBSON IS
OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE MEETINGS WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY
FRUITFUL TO PERMIT A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION WITH
JOHNSON DURING WEEK OF 20 SEPT WHEN GIBSON WILL BE IN
WASHINGTON ON OTHER BUSINESS.
GAMMON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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